This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-7   (Canceled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A database system for storing data ~~comprising~~ including Extensible Markup Language (XML) instances, said database system comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable storage medium having program code that causes said processor to perform a plurality of operations, said operations comprising:

generating a container for a plurality of XML schema namespace universal resource identifiers (URIs), each namespace URI uniquely identifying a collection of element type and attribute names, each namespace URI [[and]] identifying a location of a schema document corresponding to and defining the uniquely identified collection, each namespace URI [[and]] thereby specifying a schema for any of a plurality of XML instances conforming to said schema document, each XML instance ~~comprising~~ having a set of XML data conforming to the schema specified by a namespace URI;

placing in the container at least two XML schema namespace universal resource identifiers (URIs);

validating an XML instance according to a schema document identified by at least one of said namespace URIs;

storing a validated XML instance in a database column; and

typing said database column with said container so as to associate the column with the container and thereby require that the XML instance stored in the column and any other XML instance stored in the column conforms to the schema of [[one]] any of the at least two of the XML schema ~~namespaces~~ namespace URIs in the container, wherein said typing ~~comprises~~ includes validating any XML instances existing in said database column prior to said typing.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) The database system of claim 8, said computer readable
storage medium further comprising program code executable by said processor that comprises an
import function which modifies said container so that it refers to at least one schema component
in an XML schema namespace other than XML schema namespaces identified by said at least
two XML schema namespace URIs.

11.   (Previously Presented) The database system of claim 8, said computer readable
storage medium further comprising program code executable by said processor that comprises an
include function which assembles URIs identified in a plurality of schema location attributes.

12.   (Previously Presented) The database system of claim 8, said computer readable
storage medium further comprising program code executable by said processor that comprises an
alter function which adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within said
container.

13-19. (Canceled)

20.   (Currently Amended) A <u>processor-implemented</u> method of validating Extensible
Markup Language (XML) instances to be stored in a column of a relational database, said
method comprising:

creating<u>, via the processor,</u> a container for a plurality of XML schema namespaces, each
XML schema namespace uniquely identifying a collection of element type and attribute names<u>,</u>
<u>each namespace URI</u> [[and]] identifying a location of a schema document corresponding to and
defining the uniquely identified collection<u>, each namespace URI</u> [[and]] thereby specifying a
schema for any of a plurality of XML instances conforming to said schema document, each
XML instance ~~comprising~~ <u>having</u> a set of XML data conforming to the schema specified by an
XML schema namespace;

placing in the <u>created</u> container at least two XML schema namespaces;

typing a column of a relational database with said container so as to <u>associate the column</u>
<u>with the container and thereby</u> require that any XML instance stored in the column conforms to

the schema of [[one]] any of the at least two of the XML schema ~~namespaces~~ namespace URIs in
the container, wherein said typing ~~comprises~~ includes ensuring that any XML instances existing
in said column prior to said typing conform to at least one schema document identified by a
namespace in said container;

ensuring, prior to storing [[an]] a particular XML instance in said column, that the
particular XML instance conforms to the schema of one of said XML schema namespaces in the
container; and

storing said particular XML instance in said column upon so ensuring.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising modifying
said container so that the container refers to schema components in other XML schema
namespaces.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising assembling
respective namespaces for a plurality of schema location attributes.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising adding
schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container for XML schema
namespaces.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising locating a schema that is
referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

25.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising computer
readable modules having computer executable instructions for interfacing with a storage location
for storing XML instances in a computing system, the modules comprising:

computer readable instructions for collecting a plurality of XML schema namespaces in a
container for XML schema namespaces, each XML schema namespace uniquely identifying a
collection of element type and attribute names, each namespace URI [[and]] identifying a
location of a schema document corresponding to and defining the uniquely identified collection,
each namespace URI [[and]] thereby specifying a schema for any of a plurality of XML

instances conforming to said schema document, each XML instance ~~comprising~~ having a set of
XML data conforming to the schema specified by an XML schema namespace;;

      computer readable instructions for typing a column of a relational database with said
container so as to <u>associate the column with the container and thereby</u> require that any XML
instance stored in the column conforms to the schema of [[one]] <u>any of the at least two</u> of the
XML schema ~~namespaces~~ <u>namespace URIs</u> in the container, wherein said typing ~~comprises~~
<u>includes</u> validating that any XML instances existing in said column prior to said typing conform
to at least one schema document identified by a namespace in said container;

      computer readable instructions for validating prior to storing an XML instance in said
column that the XML instance conforms to the schema of one of said XML schema namespaces
in the container; and

      computer readable instructions for storing said XML instance is in said database column
upon so ensuring.

      26.   (Canceled)

      27.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 25,
further comprising computer readable instructions for modifying said container so that said
container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

      28.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 25,
further comprising computer readable instructions that assemble namespaces for a plurality of
schema location attributes.

      29.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 25,
further comprising computer readable instructions that adds schema components to XML schema
namespaces within at least one of said one or more containers for XML schema namespaces.

30.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 25, further comprising computer readable instructions that locate a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

31 – 36. (Canceled)